

**TOWN OF UNION  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
Minutes of Thursday, February 5, 2015**

---

The Town of Union monthly board meeting was called to order by Chairman Kendall Schneider at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2015, at Creekside Place, 102 Maple Street Evansville, WI. Members in attendance included Chairman Schneider, Supervisor Kim Gruebling, Treasurer Sharon Franklin, and Clerk Bridgit Larsen. Supervisor George Franklin, Building Inspector Bob Fahey and Constable Eric Larsen were absent. Plan Commission Chair, Alvin Francis attended. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Clerk's minutes (January 8, 2015)**

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2015, meeting made by Gruebling. Second by Schneider. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Treasurer's report**

Treasurer Sharon Franklin reported balances as of January 2015:

Park and Recreation Fund	\$	12,485.47
UB&T Money Market Sweep Account	\$	797,801.42
UB&T Checking Account	\$	16500.00
Wayne Disch Memorial Park Fund	\$	3218.89
Morning Ridge Stub Road CD	\$	21,112.97
Escrow Accounts:		
Mastec, LLC	\$	207.04

**Public Comment**

Bill Thomas was present as a representative on behalf of the Town Union for the Brooklyn Fire/EMS Protection District (BFEPD). As a municipality served by the BFEPD, Union is responsible for signing off on financial decisions made by the department. Thomas alerted the Board to refinancing efforts underway by the BFEPD with a private banker instead of the current USDA financing which has proved to be too labor intensive and costly to pay staff to complete the paperwork. Refinancing with a local bank may cost 2-5K, however paying staff to secure funding will be eliminated and the interest rate will be lower than that of USDA current loan. The BFEPD's current forecast is a \$32,000 average in savings.

Schneider stated on behalf of the Board that the Brooklyn Fire/EMS Protection District has his support in signing a new loan. Supervisor Gruebling said he thought it made complete sense to refinance outside of USDA as well.

**Constable's report**

Clerk Larsen stated on behalf of Constable Larsen that there was no activity in January to report.

**Building Inspector's report**

No building activity to report in January.

**Recycling Center Update**

Jerry stated the center is very slow and will be until springtime.

Gruebling stated that there be a no employee dogs allowed policy at the Recycle Center during operation hours and specifically mentioned dogs belonging to employees of the Recycling Center. As Gruebling stated, the dogs jump up on the side of his truck while he has been there and most likely do the same to other vehicles at the Center. Gruebling said this is not a good representation of the Recycling Center for the township.

## **Road Work/Snowplowing**

Ellen Miller of Footville Trucking was in attendance and informed the Board the current proceedings by Footville Trucking to secure their storage facility with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and meet compliance standards with Trans 277. Once standards are met Union Township will be able to store future road material at Footville Trucking.

According to WisDOT and entity storing more than a half-ton of bulk road salt is subject to Trans 277 and if the stored mix is more than 5-percent salt by weight, the storage area/facility is held to all requirements.

Diane Jancheck at the WisDOT informed Miller that Footville Trucking would have an opportunity to make corrections. Miller said the State Inspector will be doing reports and inspections in March and April.

Footville's current building holds 100 tons of material. Miller confirmed there is not a fourth door on the building.

\$180/ton is what Footville paid for salt/mix last year. Salt mix can be purchased as low as \$65.44/ton if under a State of WI contract.

Patrolman Wiser said Union alone needs 150 tons of salt/mix for a season.

Miller has been keeping track of Union's material use.

The current surface in Footville's storage floor is limestone. Miller said Jancheck didn't think the limestone would be an issue. The building sits in a quarry. Miller said the Town of Dunkirk's flooring is black top.

Gruebling asked that Footville notify the Township right away about any problems.

Gruebling wanted to know why Union is not using sand. Gruebling added there is a spring clean up to think about. Schneider suggested perhaps doing sand in the subdivisions.

Wiser said chips won't freeze, but sand does freeze if there is not enough salt mixed in it and it has to be loaded into a truck under cover so it stays dry and there is no building to do that underneath in the Town of Union.

Wiser said that Al Miller of Footville Trucking will make chips smaller for the coming snow falls. Miller asked if the board had any other questions for her before departing and Schneider replied that they will pursue the state contract for salt.

Schneider stated there has been a problem with a particular property owner in the township expecting their right of way/driveway to be plowed by the Township. As a result the owner has not plowed their responsible area. Recently the school bus became stuck at the property owner's location forcing the bus company to send a second bus and move children off the bus that was stuck.

In response to this situation Schneider authored a letter to citizens that could be sent to those that do not comply with snow removal statutes. The state has statutes that make it illegal for property owners to not remove the snow in the right-of-way.

Franklin asked how many driveways there are in violation and Schneider stated there are a few and a repeat offender is located on Territorial Road.

Schneider said the letter would be sent in an effort to stop the violators of the statute which is making it difficult for the school buses, Patrolman Wiser to plow, and places unnecessary wear-and-tear on the Town's plowing equipment.

Franklin said she received a call from a resident on Elmer Road regarding snow removal, but it was very hard to decipher what the resident was calling for in their message.

Wiser stated that Union is using the gateway on Elmer Road to turn around in and if the bus has problems turning buses around on Elmer Road he believes he would have heard directly from Ringhand Bus Company. He has not heard from Ringhand Bus Company about any problems with Union's snow removal. Wiser stated he does not want to begin the practice of plowing people's driveways with Town equipment.

Wiser stated the large plow truck is broke. It is being fixed by Patrolman Perry Jorgenson. Parts are coming from Chicago.

**Action Item: Approve 2015 Meeting Dates Publication**

Schneider approved meeting dates as is except for April 9, 2015, meeting which will need to be moved two weeks after the election. Gruebling second.

**Action Item: Acceptance of Plan Commission recommendation that the Town Board authorize a Conditional Use Permit for James L. Crans property.**

Alvin Francis stated that P&Z approved the conditional use permit.

Crans stated this lowland conservancy area that is project is situated on is not an issue with the County. Crans had called the County and they told him they didn't have a problem with the project and told him there are more properties lower than his.

Gruebling made a motion to approve the conditional use permit for James Crans as recommended by the P&Z Committee. Schneider second. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Action Item: Authorize advertisement of Wayne Disch Park mowing contract for 2015 season.**

Larsen stated she received a request from John Morning regarding the bid. Schneider stated he recalled the bid typically advertised in April and a decision made in May. Schneider made a motion to table the action until the file history can be reviewed by Larsen and a decision made at the March Board meeting. Gruebling second.

**Action Item: Site selection for Towns Association meeting March 19.**

Schneider said the Creekside Place would be a good place to have the meeting and they can do meals too. . He stated that room arrangements would allow for 40 to more people at Creekside.

Franklin asked what Schneider thought of Arby's. Schneider said that can get pricey. Schneider said that people are not eating as much at the meeting. Franklin said the county building was free but difficult to coordinate with distance and food. Schneider offered to speak with Bill Hamilton.

Gruebling said he thinks we should use Creekside Place. Schneider asked Gruebling that if he agrees he will talk to Phil Hamilton about having the meeting at Creekside. Gruebling agreed.

**Pay Bills**

Gruebling made a motion to pay bills. Schneider second. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Schneider/Gruebling. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Bridgit Larsen

*Note: minutes are considered draft until reviewed and approved by the Town Board at a properly noticed meeting.*